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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3673

S/N 09/884,795

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |                                     |                 |              |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Applicant:  | SCHERER ET AL.                      | Examiner:       | J. LEE       |
| Serial No.: | 09/884,795                          | Group Art Unit: | 3673         |
| Filed:      | JUNE 19, 2001                       | Docket No.:     | 3616.177USI2 |
| Title:      | BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD |                 |              |

OFFICIAL

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Attn: J. Lee at fax no. 703.872.9306 on February 9, 2004.

By:   
Name: Tracy L. Hollom

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 8, 2003, Applicants provide the following.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.